martlet

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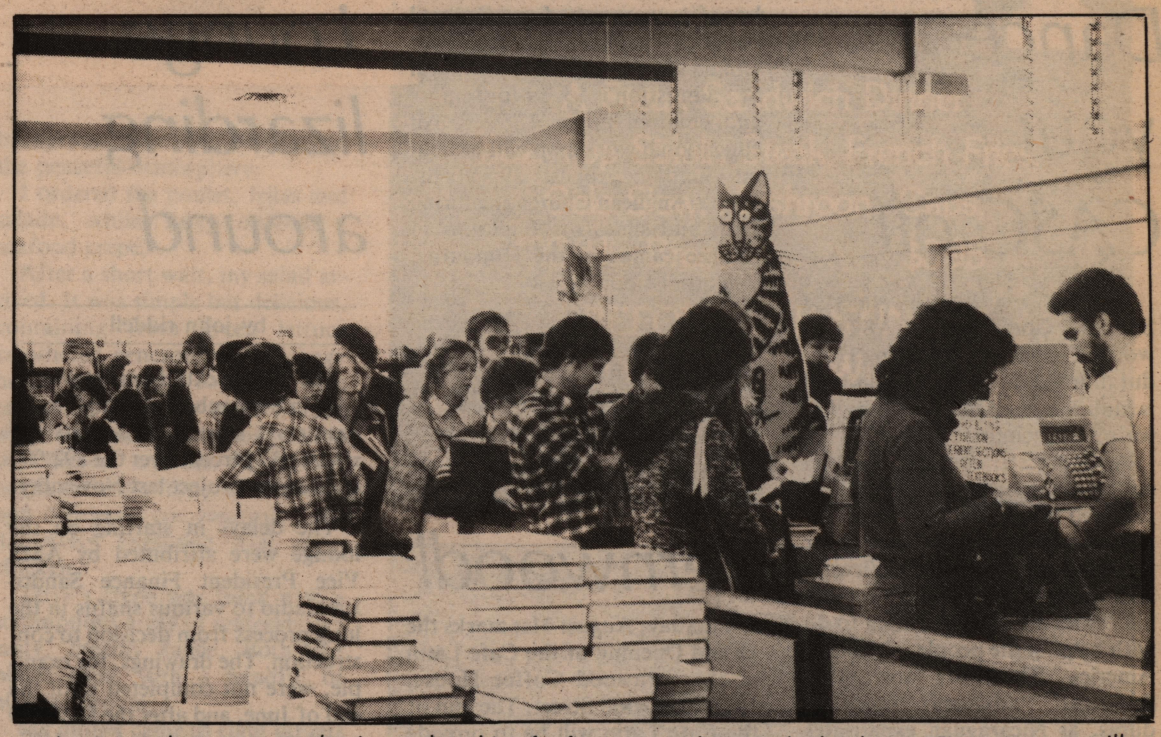
Bookstore expansion delayed

by clint burnham



This September, no more shoving and pushing for first year students in the bookstore. First year texts will be sold in L-Hut to relieve congestion in the bookstore.

After last year's record crowding in the bookstore during the first week of classes, bookstore staff wanted to make it easier for new and returning students this year. They would like to expand into the vacated Bank of Montreal, or have a new expanded mall. Contractors' lockouts and administrators' hedging, though, have prevented these options, and instead, students will be buying their first-year texts in L-hut, where book returns and buy backs will also be taking place.

Pat Sloan, UVic bookstore buyer, isn't happy with the way the next few months are going to be for the bookstore, though.

"The bookstore was designed to serve a population of 2000 - 3000," she says, "and we now have a population of 10,000. We've a lot more Computer Science and Law texts for the fall, and there's going to be almost no room for trade books. The bookstore is going to lose money this fall."

Trade books are general books that aren't on professors' reading lists; novels, art books, non-fiction, etc. Because the store only gets a 20 percent deduction from textbook prices (out of which it must pay freight), it needs trade sales to stay in the black. And with little space to properly display trade books, they won't sell, and the bookstore will lose money.

"We lose money on texts, and need the trade sales," continued Sloan. "It looks like we won't have a covered mall before December, too late for the November rush."

The bookstore would have liked to locate its trade books in the Bank of Montreal space. The bank will be gone by September 30, and would give the bookstore the much-needed breathing space. University administration, however, would rather another financial institution move in that space. In the present recession, they admit the likelihood of another bank locating here is slim (P. Darling, assistant to the VP Administration, expressed the wistful desire that perhaps a bank would open a partial branch, "without everything").

The only feasible bookstore expansion, then, is enclosing the mall, and making the bookstore and campus shop one. This is the route UVic administration has chosen, presumably to put to use the Building Fund from profits earned by the bookstore and campus shop. While bookstore profits are marginal, "unaccountably high" prices (as one store employee termed them) in the campus shop contribute heavily.

But the mall expansion is now waiting for the B.C. Construction Labor Relations Association (BCCLRA) lockout to end. M. Smith, of Campus Planning, said that building and fire permits have been obtained, but Farmer Construction, the contractor, had locked-out its workers.

Whether the mall will be finished in time for November, when students usually buy most trade books, is another question, though. But for September, there shouldn't be many line-ups.

First year texts, book returns, and Follett Company buy-backs will all be in L-Hut (behind McKinnon) for the first week of classes, to relieve congestion in the bookstore. And maybe the mall will be completed by Christmas.

Government, not strike delays student aid

Delays in student-aid processing caused by the provincial government employees strike could have been avoided by the provincial government, UVic Financial-Aid Manager Nels Granewal told the MARTLET.

bix burkhart

"The government did nothing, they made no preparations at all," said Nels Granewal, UVic's Financial Aid Manager.

Granewal said that the financial-aid office here advertised heavily to get students to apply for student-aid early, and made a special effort to get applications to the B.C. Student Services Branch in time for processing before the strike, but that the "government did nothing, they made no preparations at all."

As a result, Granewal predicts that student-aid money won't be available until early November, leaving students who are depending on student-aid for living expenses in the lurch.

"I don't know whether it was deliberate or not," said Granewal of the failure of Student Services to prepare for the strike, but added that "the finances and implications are that the government could have had some difficulty in coming up with the money (before the strike).

Student Services Branch officials were unavailable for comment.

Granewal said that the financial-aid office has attempted to make the delay in student-aid disbursement as convenient as possible for student-aid applicants.

Tuition late-payment charges will be waived, Granewal said, and "we're confident that advance charges for on-campus housing can also be put off for genuine student-aid applicants."

He said that an attempt to set up a credit system for texts and supplies proved unworkable.

"We won't be able to help students without summer savings who were depending on student-aid for living expenses," said Granewal, however, "we'll continue to operate the emergency loan fund for students in immediate need, but the fund does not have a great deal of money. Until the disbursements come through, they (students needing student-aid for rent and food) will need wealthy friends."

Granewal said that he had written to each of Canada's chartered banks, requesting that students be allowed to negotiate overdrafts until the student-aid money was released and they could negotiate their loans, but he said that so far there has been no response.

He said earlier reports that student-aid applicants caught by the strike would be covered by the universities were overstated.

"We can waive late payment fees and housing fees, and provide emergency loans, but we do that every year," said Granewal.

BCGEU votes on 6 & 5

Almost 7,000 striking B.C. Government Employees Union (BCGEU) voted in Memorial Arena, August 10th, on the provincial government's "six and five percent" wage offer, and record turnouts were also reported at union votes across the province.

But while it is expected that the BCGEU's membership will turn down the government's offer, with either a "yes" or a "no" outcome BCGEU pickets will still come down on Thursday.

BCGEU General Secretary John Fryer told the voters in Memorial Arena that, if suitable progress is not made in negotiations with the government after the pickets come down, the union will return to work-to-rule and rotating strikes.

The provincial government has said repeatedly that the six and five percent wage offer is all the money that's available.

The union move to open the government's wage offer to a vote is genuinely popular with union members upset at Socred insinuations that many BCGEU members did not want to strike.

But the union's decision to remove pickets Thursday, whatever the outcome of the contract vote, has caused confusion.

"I don't understand it. If we vote the government's offer down, we're expected to go back to work on Thursday as if nothing has happened," said one picketer.

feature this week . . .
The real welfare bums. See page 8

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HOT FLASHES

Dance your CASC off

The Victoria Central America Support Committee (CASC) is worried about an impending Honduran invasion of Nicaragua, and is doing something to raise Victoria's consciousness.

A dance, a concert, and an educational workshop will be featured in the next few weeks, as well as a Weekend of Concern for Central America, to show Victoria that Reagan's idea of "foreign aid" does not have anything to do with helping the people of Central America. There are now more American "advisors" in Honduras, as Nicaraguan expatriates and Honduran soldiers prepare for an invasion of the Sandinistan-governed country, than in war-ravaged El Salvador.

A benefit dance for CASC will be held this Saturday, August 14, in the OAP Hall on Government, music provided by Off the Wall and Night Faces; admission (no minors) is $4.50, with proceeds to CASC educational and support activities.

August 28-29 has been designated Weekend of Concern for Central America by several Victoria progressive groups because of the extreme situation of refugees. On Saturday, August 28, Almadina, a South American music group, will be holding a benefit concert for Central America refugees, at the First United Church Hall, 932 Balmoral St.; admission is $5, $4 for seniors and children under 12 free. An educational workshop will be held on Sunday, August 29, at St. John's Anglican Church, featuring films and slides of conditions in refugee camps in the Honduras; free admission.

New cafe in Fernwood!

Tuesday, August 31st marks the Grand Opening of the Cafe Latin at the Fernwood Coffee House, 1923 Fernwood Street. The aim of the Cafe Latin will be to provide a place where French-speaking and Spanish-speaking residents of Victoria can meet over a cup of coffee or tea, for conversation and music. Of course English-speaking Victorians are welcome to come by as well. The recorded music will feature a wide range of Quebecois as well as Spanish, French and South American artists. The cafe also hopes to attract local musicians.

The Cafe Latin will be open from 8:30 to 12:30 every Tuesday night. Tea, coffee, herb teas and fruit juices, as well as baked goods will be sold. Admission is free. Come on down, bring your friends and family, young and old, to the Cafe Latin!

Lounge lizarding around

by john riddell

The SUB cocktail lounge will be open in September, although work hasn't yet started, and costs are already 33 percent over the $92,000 allotted the project last November.

The delays in starting on the lounge were attributed by AMS Vice President Finance Sandro Laudadio to various snafus in the long process from decision to construction. The drawings, for example, were not completed until the end of June, and after the $122,000 contract was awarded to UVic Buildings and Grounds, there was an additional sub-contracting period, which only ended last week.

J. Golinsky, of Buildings and Grounds, says that with the construction trades strike now on, no work, particularly electrical, can start. Laudadio claimed, however, that he had been assured by Golinsky that the strike would be no problem. Golinsky said that the work has been ordered.

Regardless of construction progress, however, the lounge will open in September; temporarily, in the upper lounge. Laudadio said that the finished lounge downstairs will be open October 1.

Anti-Israeli Sentiment

When opponents of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon rally in Vancouver this Thursday, the third such protest since the invasion, it will mark a growing Canadian disenchantment with Israel's attempts to destroy not only the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) but the Palestinian people themselves.

Hanna Kawas, Vancouver representative of the Canada-Palestine Association (CPA), which is organizing the Thursday demonstration, said that Canadians are beginning to make a break with the politics of Israel.

"You can feel the change — more in Canada than in the U.S.." said Kawas. "Not only the bombing of the Canadian embassy and the embarrassment of the ambassador by Israeli troops, but the news that's coming out, the destruction and killing of the people."

But Kawas said that the Canadian government has been slow to do anything more than make mild criticisms of Israel's actions. The demonstration, he said, was not only protesting the invasion of Lebanon, but also demanding that Canada impose sanctions against Israel.

He said that Canadians could support the Palestinian people by sending telegrams to the Canadian government demanding the imposition of sanctions, and by donating to the Palestine medical-aid fund.

Even in Israel anti-war feeling is growing, and demonstrations against the Begin government's war policy have involved as many as 75,000 people.

Israel's recent actions are not a break with the past but a continuation of the state's basis, since 1948, on racial exclusiveness and the persecution of the Palestinians, said Kawas.

He said that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, and took up arms against Israel only after years of "waiting for the U.N. and world opinion" to recognize the Palestinian plight.

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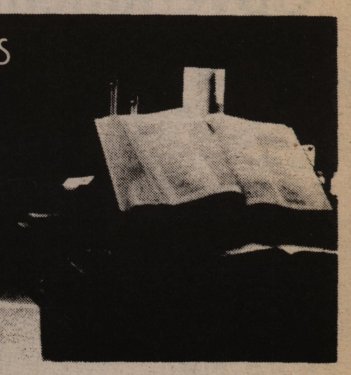

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One thousand march for peace

It may have been smaller than April's peace rally, but the Vancouver Island Disarmament Coalition's August 7th "Unite for Survival" march and rally was a convincing demonstration of the growth of the peace movement.

Almost 1,000 marched from Centennial Square to the legislature, but most impressive was the variety of the demonstrators. BCGEU General Secretary John Fryer lifted picketlines at the legislature, and gave a message of support to the rally.

There were banners from the Vancouver Island Vegetarians, the Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace, the World Federalists, and the Workers Communist Party.

Amongst the marchers were members of the Victoria and Saanich municipal councils, and Alderman Robin Blencoe gave the rally the blessings of Victoria City Council.

Myths that the disarmament movement is pro-Soviet were dispelled by speaker Reuben Ware, of the Central America Support Committee, who noted that if the USSR were deploying Trident missiles on our doorstep, and Cruise missiles in our own yard, we would oppose them, too.

Other speakers included Edith Adamson of Taxes for Peace, Ernie Chang of Physicians for Social Responsibility, and David Jackman.

President of the Victoria Labour Council Peter James cited his own experience as a nuclear physicist at Chalk River, and urged others in similar work to follow his example and leave their jobs.

Music by the Tree People (who will be doing a benefit concert for the Coalition on August 18th at the Belfry), the Original Balkan Jam, Bob Sampson and Dan Feehan provided entertainment between the speeches.

Coalition representative Sue Stroud said that $366.50 was raised for further peace work from the rally alone, and more from the benefit dance that evening.

And UVic Professor Roger Beehler said that the rally would help in establising an Academics for Nuclear Disarmament group at UVic, as he urged students attending the rally to urge their professors to get involved in the struggle for peace.

Displays on the legislature grounds by groups participating in the march provided background information on the six demands raised the the Coalition: end the arms race; abolish nuclear weapons; fund human needs, not war; end foreign military intervention in all countries; support the peace blockade, stop Trident; and no cruise missiles in Canada.

The Saturday rally complemented Disarmament Weekend activities sponsored by local churches, including a vigil for peace and candle-light memorial ceremony for Hiroshima on Friday, and services in many local churches in support of the Trident peace blockade on Sunday.

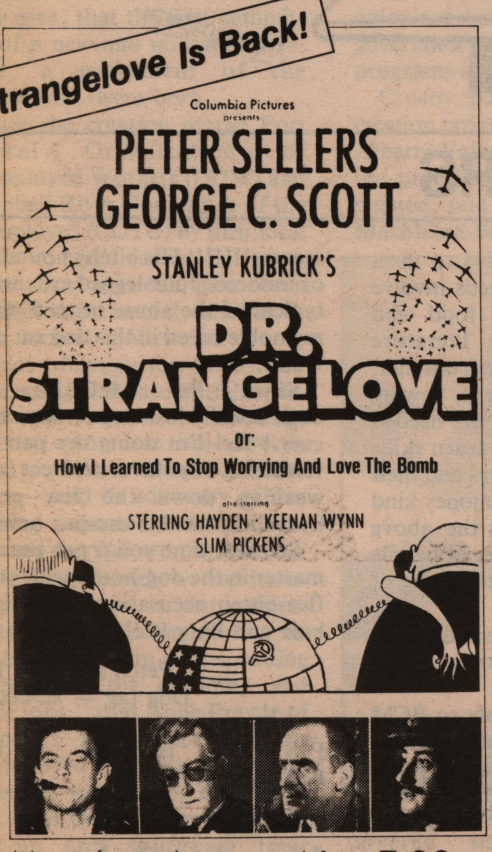
The weekend actions also laid the groundwork for a planned disarmament week later this fall.

Reading for peace

by simon dalby

Jonathan Schell's "The Fate of the Earth" (1982), first published in the "New Yorker" in February this year (1st, 8th and 15th Feb.), is likely to become the key book in the revived U.S. disarmament movement. Ground Zero's "Nuclear War: What's in it for You?" (1982, Pocket Books) is a basic primer on nuclear war. Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator Mark Hatfield's staffs cooperated to produce "Freeze" (1982, Bantam) which provides the rationale behind their nuclear freeze initiative in the U.S. Congress, and just might be an early shot in the 1984 presidential battles. Nigel Calder "Nuclear Nightmares" (1981, Penguin) explains how various scenarios on the international scene might cause the unthinkable to happen. Cox "Overkill" (Penguin, various editions) describes the evolution of nuclear weapons. Helen Caldicott (the current president of the influential Physicians for Social Responsibility) is well worth reading in "Nuclear Madness: What you can Do!" (Random House, 1978). Amory and Hunter Lovins examine the links between nuclear power and weapons in "Energy/War: Breaking the Nuclear Link" (Harper and Row, 1980). The crucial papers on the European peace movement are in E.P. Thompson and Dan Smith (eds.) "Protest and Survive" (1980, Penguin), but see also Lucio Magri, "The Peace Movement and European Socialism" New Left Review No. 131. (January/February 1982).

VIDEA & Students for Peace & Disarmament present



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editorial

Wimping out again!

The AMS Board of Directors (BOD) decision to turn down a motion expressing student support of the B.C. Government Employees Union (BCGEU) in its current contract dispute with the provincial government is an act of simple pig-headedness.

Even middle-class students, with all the expected baggage and liberal views on the trade-union movement, should at least be able to see that what the BCGEU is fighting is the very thing we, as students, are also fighting: the Socred restraint program.

The government's attempt to limit public-sector wages to its six and five percent guidelines is part of its same program of unprecedented cuts to education, health-care and other social-services.

At this point the BCGEU is taking head-on that restraint program, and the union's victory or defeat will, in all likelihood, mean the victory or defeat of Bennett's attempt to justify restraint as a necessary measure in the fight against the economic crisis.

A Bennett victory will be disastrous for students. And any shortsighted repugnance of the BCGEU's strike weapon (a repugnance that the government, with its handling of student-aid processing this summer, is clearly trying to encourage) will only ease Bennett's task.

Wage cuts and service cuts are two sides of the same coin. They will only lead to greater unemployment, and the rollback of rights to education and health-care that Canadians have fought to win. That is clearly not in our interest.

The BOD talks each year about the need to form alliances with other organizations if we are going to defeat cuts to post-secondary education. A natural ally is fighting restraint right now, all over this province.

If narrow class prejudices, and worker xenophobia, prevent the BOD from putting its own words into practice then it should question its own committment to defending the students who elected it, and pay for it.

The BCGEU has belled the cat; the cat is a provincial government that would tell us to tighten our belts and use the money it saves to pay off its wealthy coal-mining, casino-hopping and stadium building friends. Let's hope that the BOD listens.

Stop the Palestine Genocide

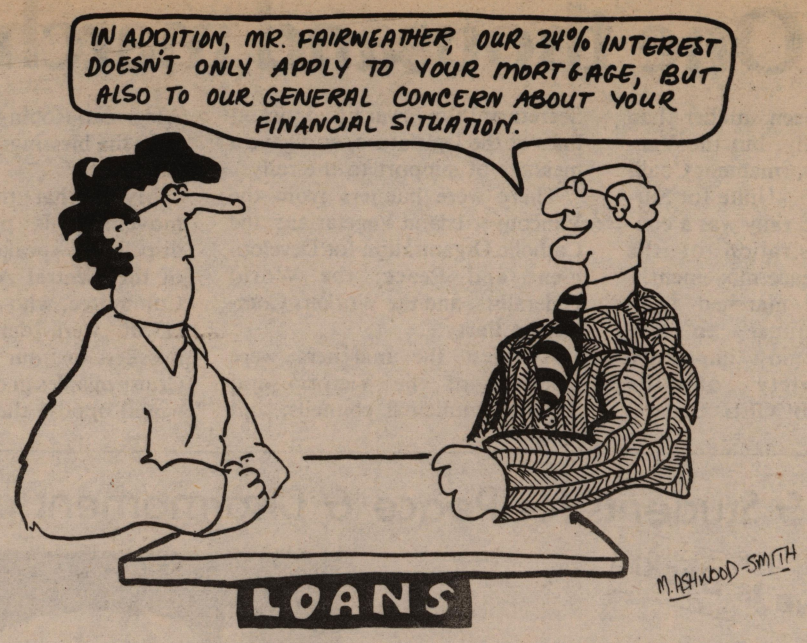
Terrorism in the Mid East is once again in the news. In a rise of fascism more chilling than the National Front rioting in Britain or the KKK resurgence in the States, a wholesale slaughter of a people is taking place, the worse in history since Hitler. Yeah, those damn PLO terrorists, you say. Wrong.

The Israeli state is the terrorist now wiping out on a horrific scale the Palestinian people. Begin and his coterie of Zionist fascists are perpetrating the worse act of racist violence since the creation of the Jewish state in 1948.

Despite the Israeli censoring of TV reports on the Lebanon invasion, despite Begin's claims that he only wants to protect his people (has to keep the race pure, for the 1000-year Holy Land), it is now becoming more apparent to Western thinking people that Israel must be stopped.

How can we, in far-off Victoria, help? For one thing, an immediate boycott of all Israeli goods — fruit, wines, clothing. International economic sanctions should be immediately imposed.

In Israel, Arabs cannot vote, and Palestinians in Sidon have been ordered to wear white crosses on their clothing, reminiscent of the yellow stars Jews in Nazi Europe wore in the thirties and forties. Menachim Begin and his government are racist, genocidal, fascists. They cannot be supported.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LETTERS

Black Consciousness

Editors:

We, the Canadian Region of the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania (external wing) bring to your attention our presence in Toronto and other cities of Canada the activities we have thus far been engaged in.

Many of our members here and elsewhere are in exile as a result of fleeing the racist regime's sponsored repression. This engulfed the myriad Black Consciousness mass organizations and led to the Soweto massacres in which over a thousand of our compatriots and BCM leaders were killed and the consequent banning of BCM organizations in 1977.

Having regrouped, the BCM is gaining ascendency, today we are more than ever prepared to take on our Apartheid rulers and their financial backers in order to transform South Africa into a free Azania and to relegate human misery and hardships obsolete.

Our activities in Canada have included holding meetings to inform and educate Canadians on the evils of apartheid; the struggles of the oppressed and exploited peoples of South Africa; and initiation of boycott campaigns of banks and companies supportive of the racist regime. Through our Frontline Regions in Lesotho, Botswana and Zimbabwe we are in constant communication with our underground in South Africa. Some financial and material aid, raised here is channelled to them to enable them to organize, politicize and mobilize the people, particularly the black workers.

We want to point out that our needs still go largely unmet. At this juncture we need to raise money to meet travel costs to an emergency conference of BCM in Southern Africa. It is vital for the further advance of our revolutionary work and the consolidation of our movement. Consequently, we urgently request you to give us a donation to meet the travel costs.

In addition, the distressing situation of South African refugees in the Frontline States has been brought to our attention. Some international agencies provide aid to only select groups of refugees. It is our intention to ease the plight of those Azanians who do not receive aid because ideologically they might differ from certain well-resourced organizations. We are currently engaged in a fund and material assistance drive to meet this end. Refugees' needs involve basic necessities like food and clothing. Progressive literature (books), musical instruments, photographic equipment, sewing machines, typewriters, are needed also to enable them to learn skills of later use to themselves and their country. Donations in money kind are welcome to meet the above needs. Pass to us names of people and organizations that may be of help.

We thank in advance and warmly encourage you to contact us.

Reply to BCM
c/o Menziwe Mbeo
1413 Fernwood Road
Victoria, B.C. V8U 4P6
383-7787

Heil Ladybug

Editors:

The little brown corgi to which Mr. Piekkola refers in his letter in the MARTLET of July 29 is not a "pest" nor is she a "confounded nuisance." Her name is Ladybug and I find her one of the most charming and intellectually honest members of the university community. Why shouldn't she be allowed free run of the campus? I've met people who were more of a health hazard than that dog. Long may Ladybug roam unfettered!.

Michael Batten

Dog-Day Afternoon

Edidog:

Yurrrrr Corgispondent is barking up the wrong tree!!!

I don't like to pick bones, but if he had any idea what a Dog's life I lead he certainly wouldn't be so ruff.

Let's hear my end of the tail. He's biting off more than he can chew when he refers to me as "Petch's pest". Notice that he writes his letter when the Animal Rights Society has been let off its leash for the summer. What a Howl!!!!!

This isn't the first time I've been collared by yelping "psyschology" students about the paws that refreshes. They're right when they say that we live in a defecant society. The mutterings found in his piddling little letter are of the worst scentse!!!!!!! His bitchy hounding of innocent four-legged criteurs is typical of the abuse heaped upon my noble breed in this dog eat dog world.

Since Pet McGurrrr is dogmatically insisting on spending cuts I feel I'm doing my part by fertilizing my favorite trees and washing down the few good hydrants that this campus boasts.

So, next time you try to put my master in the dog-house with your flea-bitten accusations just dig a hole and bury it!!!!!

Petch's Peeved Pet
Dog tag — 82-00000

P.S. dog is God spelled backwards!!!

Vander Zalm

Editors:

Vander Zalm, Vantreight, Couvelier, Nacion and De Villiers are all in desperate need of a lesson in democracy. The cardinal rule in any society that is going to survive is that the government must be flexible enough to meet the changing needs of the people who elected it. The question of whether an anti-nuclear referendum can be held in any B.C. municipality under the provincial Municipal Act is not quite to the point. The people need and desire a referendum and if the Municipal Act stands in their way itshould be changed...immediately!

Governments at all levels are the servants of the people. In our society, the roles seem to have been reversed. Instead of government of the people we have government at the people!

Nacion and De Villiers can be forgiven because they were merely acting at the request of the municipalities in delivering their legal opinion (and it *is* just that: an opinion) that the referendum would not be "legal". In fact, if the referendum were not ruled strictly correct under the Municipal Act it still would not be "illegal", it would only be ultra vires which simply means that it is not within the strict definition of a municipal matter. The use of the words "legal" or "illegal" tend to obscure the real issue which is that all the people of the planet are being held to ransom every day that these weapons exist. Where was "legality" when the weapons were first conceived?

Sue Stroud
for the Greater Victoria
Disarmament Referendum
Committee

Working for work

In the Alberni Valley only 600 people are still working in a wood industry that, before the recession, employed over 5,000 in its mills and logging camps.

Port Alberni has become, in many ways, the face of unemployment in B.C.. The latest figures released by Statistics Canada show that B.C.'s jobless rate last month had climbed to over 13 percent.

It is not unusual that it was in Port Alberni, and in the similarly hard-hit Courtenay — Campbell River area, that the first committees of a new and militant movement, a movement of the unemployed, were born.

Since the creation of the Port Alberni Organization of Unemployed Workers (OUW) and Campbell River Committee of the Unemployed (COTU) by their local labour councils earlier this year, similar organizations have been established in several other B.C. cities, including Victoria.

What distinguishes this new movement is its base in the trade-union movement — all but the Victoria committee are directly linked to a labour council or trade-union — and its advocacy of far-reaching economic and political demands for full employment.

"What we thought we had learned in the thirties is that governments would intervene during an economic recession with spending to stimulate the economy and create jobs," said Anne Preyde of Victoria's Committee for the Unemployed (CFTU). "But real power lies with the big companies who, when they will, invest, divest, start-up and shutdown their businesses. And right now the companies are united on the need for "restraint", she said.

What is also clear is that the extent of unemployment is being used by the government to divide the unemployed from working unionized British Columbians, a potential danger to the building of an unemployed movement.

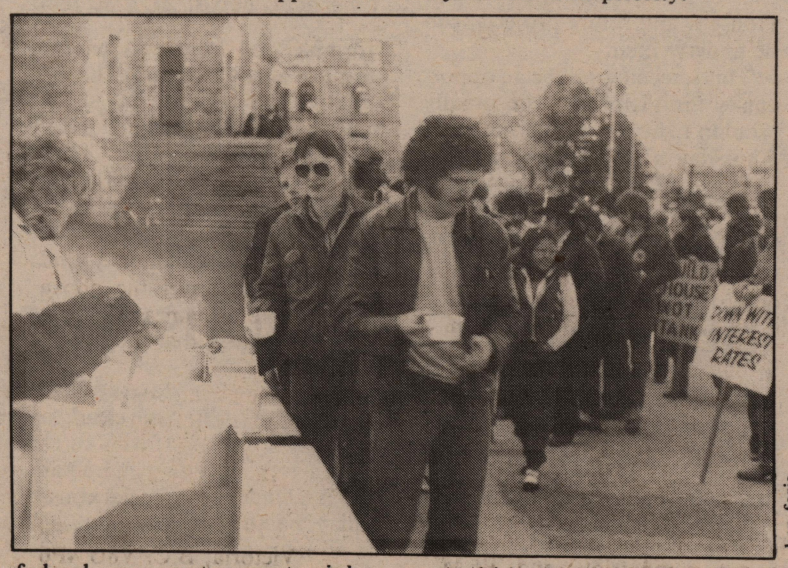
Dave Crosby, Chairman of Port Alberni's OUW, told the MARTLET that it was the need for a common program against unemployment that the OUW called for an August 28th conference, in Nanaimo, of B.C.'s unemployed committees.

"It's only unity between the employed and unemployed, union members and unorganized, that will win the demands we need," said Crosby.

The danger of division, a division the government encourages, was readily apparent at a recent meeting of Victoria's CFTU, where several members were quick to blame BCGEU demands for higher wages for the loss of jobs.

It is clear from the last period of controls during 1975-78 that unemployment, which jumped from 500,000 to 1 million, goes up when wages are cutback. And it was also clear at the meeting that when the unemployed attack unionized workers, pressure on the government to bring in meaningful programs to aid the jobless drops.

Crosby pointed to the work-creation programs promised for the Alberni Valley. Only a handful of the promised jobs have yet been created, said Crosby, adding that MacMillan Bloedel has applied for federal money to create jobs covered under the union agreement.



ken faris

"A lot of people here would be happy to work, even at less than union wages," Crosby said. "But Mac-Blo is trying to use federal handouts to take away union jobs, and pay lower wages."

Preyde said that, in a recent CFTU meeting with former Labour Minister Jack Heinrich, the Minister had admitted that job-creation programs so far were inadequate, and that their administration was left to the employer.

It meant that reforestation make-work programs basically left union contracts covering reforestation "worth shit-all", said Preyde.

It is in the hope of clarifying issues like these, and developing better methods of involving the unemployed in the fight for jobs, that the Nanaimo conference has been set.

The prospects are encouraging, explained Crosby. He said that, while a recent conference of the B.C. Federation of Labour on the unemployed did not result in any major union campaign for jobs, it did give labour councils direction in setting up committees like the OUW.

And Crosby said that as the crisis continues, and many of the unemployed trade UI payments for welfare, pressure on the government to act is going to increase.

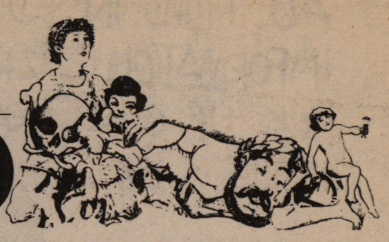
"In Alberni we have 700 workers going on welfare by the end of the month," Crosby said, "and ensuring that Human Resources can manage the influx has become our major short-term priority."

And it's going to leave a lot of unemployed angrier than ever.

"We figure government will intervene on our behalf — we elected them — but it doesn't happen," said Preyde. "Heinrich doesn't want to see us again; he didn't want to see us in the first place," she said.

Only an all-out political struggle for jobs is going to bring about any change in the unemployment figures agree all of the unemployed committees. And it looks like once the priorities and demands of the movement are sorted out in Nanaimo later this month, the unemployed in B.C., at least, are going to look a lot like the force that, in the 1930's toppled the Bennett government federally, and won, for the first time in Canada, unemployment insurance.

excerpts from BOD



by lisa tansey

Is there a doctor in the house?

V.P. Programs Roberta Doylend proposed an AMS subsidized first-aid program, designed by Trauma Tech, be provided for students this year. Trauma Tech has already held courses on campus for the Child Care program.

Some more special than others...

The MARTLET and Residence Council have joined the new AMS Special Organizations Committee (SOC), which already includes the Radio Club and the UVic Public Interest Research Group (PIRG). The SOC, which will include representatives of all four groups and the AMS BOD, will administer funding.

Division of labour

A motion by Directors Rex Brynen and Alex Davies that would have seen the AMS expressing support of the B.C. Government Employees Union (BCGEU) in its current contract dispute with the provincial government was narrowly defeated 3 to 4. Davies said afterward that it was hypocritical of the BOD to expect support for its anti-cutbacks campaign from organized labour when the BOD refused to support the BCGEU as it took on directly the Socred Restraint Program.

Israel condemned

The BOD passed a Brynen/Herb Pimlott motion to send a telegram to the Israeli embassy condemning the shelling of Beirut University. The university has become one of the latest victims of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

UVic Radio given the go-ahead

The BOD informally approved a request by the UVic Radio Club to purchase a main mixing board for $1200. It was argued that purchase of the new board would be cheaper than trying to repair the one donated to the Radio Club.

The MARTLET is the newspaper published by the Alma Mater Society of the University of Victoria. The MARTLET is published bi-weekly in the summer months, weekly in winter session. The opinions expressed in these pages are the sole responsibility of the MARTLET and do not (god forbid) necessarily reflect the views of the Alma Mater Society or the University of Victoria.

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Co-editors: Katy Chan & Terry Johnson

Production Manager: David Scholefield

Overworked Staff: Clint Burnham, Jeanette Campbell, Blanche Crerar, Simon Dalby, Margo Harrison, Menziwe Mbeo, Bruce Milne, Delores Morowski, Herb Pimlott, John Riddell, Lisa Tansey, Richard Walpole.

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Building a movement: 14 points

"This paper makes no apologies for its outlook. Its view is from the greenchain, mines, farms, offices, wherever working people are," read the brief presented by the Port Alberni Organization of Unemployed Workers (OUW) and Campbell River Committee of the Unemployed (COTU) to the B.C. legislature this April.

The OUW and COTU hammered out 14 points which they considered basis for a "major reconstructive effort" of the B.C. economy that would lead to the creation and maintenance of jobs.

The demands will form the basis of discussion for the representatives of B.C.'s unemployed committees meeting August 28th in Nanaimo to hammer out a common program and organizing strategy.

The 14 points, in condensed form, are as follows:

1) The provincial government work with Ottawa to enact legislation reducing the work day from 8 to 6 hours with no loss in pay. Shorter hours would create one job for every three existing today, and are justified by automation and other improved techniques in production.

2) Lower interest rate — no export of capital. The provincial government must pressure the Bank of Canada to lower interest rates, and controls must be placed on the export of profits from U.S. subsidiaries in Canada.

3) A housing program. The provincial government should undertake a massive construction program of affordable housing.

4) Protection of existing homes. Legislation to prohibit foreclosure on homes is required immediately.

5) Layoff protection. Corporations laying off workers must open their financial records for public inspection, and six months notice of layoff must be given.

6) Public control of resources. B.C.'s natural resources must come under public control. Corporations wanting access to resource rights must guarantee stable employment.

7) Substantial increase in Human Resources payments. The economic crisis has led thousands of workers to seek welfare, and the current rates do not meet family needs.

8) Extend UIC payments. The provincial government must demand that UIC payments be maintained until a job is found.

9) Reduce military spending. The provincial government must demand a cut in federal military spending — such spending creates no lasting employment, and only increases the burden on an already troubled society.

10) Rescind the restraint program. Reducing spending on social services will only create further unemployment.

11) Retraining and education. Legislation to promote training of workers is required.

12) Forest and fisheries conservation. B.C. is plagued by grossly overcut forest resources and the accompanying damage to spawning creeks and estuaries — the provincial government must force the corporations to embark on a massive program of reconstruction and reforestation at union rates of pay.

13) Increase the minimum wage. The minimum wage must be increased to insure a decent minimum standard of living.

14) Free day care. Government supplied universal daycare is essential for single parents and low-income families, and would provide thousands of jobs.

"The unemployed hereby serve notice on all governments that our patience is wearing thin. We want to live productive, fruitful lives, to live with dignity," the brief closed.

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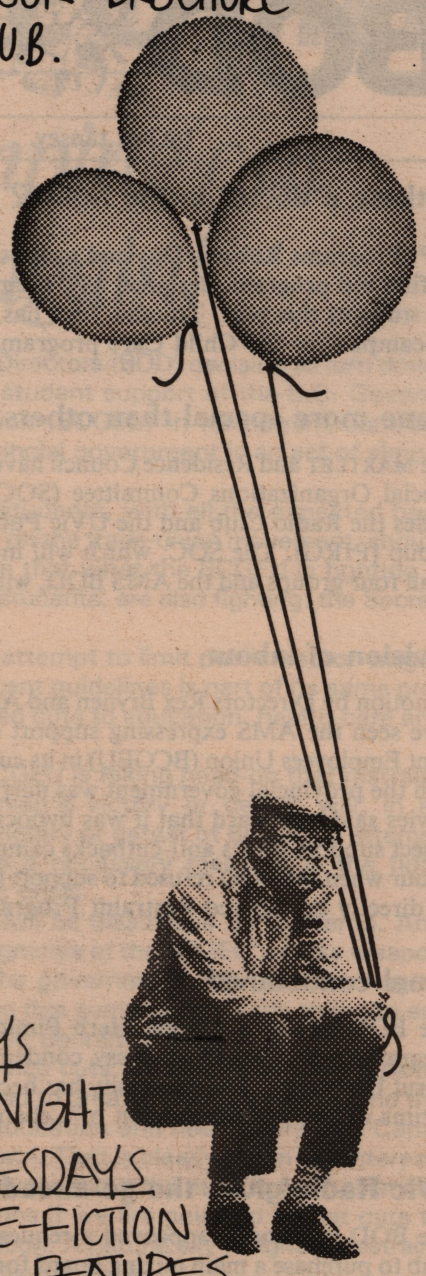

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Egoyan premiere here

Atom Egoyan is a Victoria filmaker who is going to school in Toronto. His latest film, *Open House*, will premiere here at UVic's Cinecenta Saturday, August 21, as well as three of his earlier films.

John Skibinski, Cinecenta manager, is excited about this opportunity to screen, and thereby make more accessible, some of Egoyan's work. Egoyan usually returns to Victoria in the summer, but before now his films were usually premiered in the Art Gallery, which has neither the technical facilities, nor the accessibility, that Egoyan needs.

Egoyan also wants to make this an investor-recruitment screening, and has invited various local wealthies in the hope that some of the costs of filming "Open House", and future projects, can be underwritten.

This screening will be an opportunity for Victorians who usually wouldn't be caught dead in a Thursday night Open Space Experimental Film Festival to view the work of a local artist while surrounding themselves in the comfortable and bourgeois environment of a movie theatre. The three earlier works to be shown, "Howard in Particular" (1979), "After Grad With Dad" (1980), and "Peep Show" (1981), have been shown in film festivals in Athens, Hong Kong, and Toronto. "Howard in Particular" and "Peep Show" have both received awards at the Canadian National Exhibition Film Festival, in dramatic and experimental categories.

The films will be shown at 7:30, on Saturday, August 21.

Open House — Atom Egoyan's latest film. To be premiered at UVic's Cinecenta, August 21, 7:30 p.m.

Between consciousness & existence

by bruce milne

In conventional reviews of art there is a tendency to evaluate how well or poorly a play, painting or phonograph record is produced without any thought to *what* is actually being produced. This narrow approach allows the reviewer to judge technical aspects in an apparently neutral and objective manner as if cultural products were themselves neutral — without meaning or significance. A review of this type is idealist in that it abstracts the event from any concrete social reality and promotes the false belief that any art is valid as long as it is well done (technically). The popular manifestation of this absurdity is the phrase: "I like all kinds of music as long as its good."

However, not all art or music is appropriate or acceptable. Art must be exposed to critical moral evaluation exactly like any other human activity. To insist that all art is valid is as absurd as suggesting that all human activity is valid. "Gassing Jews is fine, so long as its well done." "Social discrimination against women is great as long as it is efficient." "I can appreciate slavery," says our average reviewer, "As long as the lines of command are clearly articulated and the power structure conforms to expected guidelines."

In human activity our judgement is based upon social consequences. With art the social relations are more difficult to ascertain. This cannot be used as an excuse to escape into idealist technical evaluation. Art has meaning. It is precisely the meaning of art that makes it important. The meaning of artistic endeavours is what cultural workers (artists, actors, musicians, writers) are communicating and it is the meanings that must be evaluated. We cannot pretend that art is a technical exercise devoid of content.

The meaning of art is contained and reproduced in the concrete activities surrounding the production. In the process of production we must include all activities from the inital creative inspiration, through distribution by performers, stage hands, gallery staff, to the final activities of consumption by an audience. Only by understanding fully what is produced at each stage in terms of actual concrete activity can we finally evaluate artistic work. We must be wary of the mystification inherent in ascribing all meaning to the superficial content of script, lyric or text.

Stumps and Sky (c. 1934) — oil on paper, part of Emily Carr's Sky Paintings Exhibit at the Greater Victoria Art Gallery. Until September 5.

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shoestring gourmet

Vive Pigalle!

by margo harrison

If you want great food in superb surroundings at reasonable prices, La Place Pigalle located in Market Square is the restaurant for you!

Since it was a warm sunny evening, my friend and I decided to enjoy our dinner outside, amidst hanging baskets and wide umbrellas. The setting sun and the soft French music playing in the background lent itself perfectly to the peaceful atmosphere.

I ordered the poulet, frites and salade, while Terry ordered a seafood crepe.

After a short wait, my salad arrived. It was simple but delicious, containing fresh green lettuce smothered generously with tangy herb dressing, topped with croutons. Then my plate heaped with frites and a generous portion of chicken arrived. Frites, the original french fry, golden brown and delicious, complemented the delicately seasoned and crisp chicken.

Terry's crepe was filled with a scrumptious array of seafoods in a zesty, creamy sauce. Both our plates came with a handful of alfalfa sprouts.

My dinner came to eight dollars and Terry's cost five. For an extra dollar, the crepe would include french onion soup or salad.

Although we were stuffed, we could not resist desert. We both ordered Pigalle's. It was a rich sponge cake with thick custard filling topped with a thick layer of mocha icing, not too sweet, dusted with powdered sugar, toasted almonds and slivered chocolate. They cost $2.00 each and were well worth it.

The dinner, desert, tea, coffee (including countless refills) came to $18. Something must also be said about the friendly service which made the meal more enjoyable. La Place Pigalle is also open early in the day for lunch and is licenced.

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FRIENDS, STUDENTS, STAFF! S.J. Willis Reunion (1950 - 1983) will be held on May 13 - 15, 1983. General information inquiries and registration requests are now being processed by the Registration Committee. Send your name, address, telephone number and last year of attendance to the school; 923 Topaz Ave., Victoria, B.C., V8T 2M2. (604) 382-2171.

MARTLET STAFF MEETING

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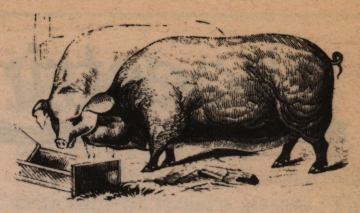
The real welfare bums



by john graham

For politicans the surest way out of a crisis is fingering a scapegoat. And as Canada's recession sends government deficits soaring, it is clearly workers' wages, especially in the public-sector, that have received the finger.

Finance Minister Alan MacEachen's June budget, recently mimicked by B.C. Premier Bill Bennett, sets out to combat Ottawa's potential $20 billion deficit this year by dragging public-sector employees into the nirvana of the "six percent society."

The deficit is generally attributed, especially by business analysts, to government overspending on public services and wages.

But it is not rising government expenditures that have been the problem, but declining government revenues. And nowhere has the decline in revenue been greater than that in corporate and bank taxation.

Last year revenue from corporate taxes increased only 0.5 percent while that from personal income taxes jumped 21.5 percent. Taxes paid by Canada's chartered banks actually dropped from $536 million in 1976 to $209 million in 1980; the effective tax rate on banks dropped by more than half over the past decade, from 49.9 percent in 1971 to 21.1 percent in 1981.

The real scapegoats are not working people, already squeezed on all sides by rising taxes, higher prices, and falling wages. The real welfare bums are our big banks and corporations.

In 1951 corporate income taxes accounted for 28.6 percent of all federal government revenues, but by 1977 this level had dropped to only 12.6 percent. This long-term decrease in corporate taxation is, however, only the tip of the iceberg.

Under the cozy pressure of business groups close to the government, a myriad of tax concessions have been granted. Tax lawyers now call these concessions "tax expenditures" because the revenue lost to the government has never before been considered an expenditure.

Neil Brooks, a tax law professor at Osgoode Law School in Toronto, claims that "tax expenditures" amounted to $6 billion in 1979 — this is almost the same amount as the federal deficit that year. Closing up these concessions alone would have wiped out the federal deficit for every year up to 1982.

Brooks responded to government arguments that "tax expenditures" created jobs and promoted investment by pointing out that $2.5 billion worth of such concessions to Ontario manufacturers in 1972-75 created an additional investment of only $340 - 846 million — the remaining 65 - 80 percent of the incentive merely bolstered profits.

THE CORPORATE LOBBY

Alan MacEachen's ill-fated fall, 1981 budget, with its mild changes to investment write-offs in the Canadian film industry, was greeted with howls of protest from the investor lobby. Most of these changes have since been quietly dropped.

The strength of the corporate lobby, and its ability to exact increasing privileges for its members, was readily apparent in MacEachen's June budget. A high-powered business committee was formed to review the budget proposals before implementation. No more loopholes were closed. And instead of trying to find government revenue from corporate taxes, MacEachen sought it, in business-approved fashion, from harsh limits on public-sector wages.

BENEFITS AND BAIL-OUTS

The strength of Canada's corporate lobby is also apparent in the implementation of Ottawa's National Energy Program (NEP), a multi-billion dollar concession to Canadian-owned oil businesses.

Smiling Jack Gallagher, the chairman of Dome Petroleum, has long been the sweetheart of the federal government and the man with the most to gain from NEP. He has parlayed his Canadian image into a $5 billion corporation, with his personal share ownership in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Dome has benefitted from the NEP's extraordinary tax breaks to Canadian firms exploring for Arctic oil, allowing it to pay only marginal taxes from its extensive Alberta oil holdings — this part of the NEP was virtually tailor-made for Dome.

Even the ironic strength of Dome's foreign backing, including significant South African investment, has not prevented the now 60 percent foreign-owned subsidiary exploration company just after NEP was announced.

The net result is that Smiling Jack is now the wealthiest man in Canada's well-heeled oil patch, rich on concessions from a government that insists that Canadian workers are living beyond their means.

Last year almost $9 billion in grants, subsidies and interest-free loans was made available to Canadian businessmen — and rather than stopping this drain in revenue MacEachen's latest budget increased its handouts to our country's richest freeloaders.

The latest budget contains additional tax breaks of $675 million. Deductions for interest on loans used for investment have been restored after their short-lived removal in the fall budget. And the latest $50 million bail-out of Quebec's Maislin Trucking, a sweetheart deal for Seagram's head and Liberal backer Sam Bronfman, is the latest indication that the economic crisis has two types of justice: one for the companies and one for everybody else.

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